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 ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 DHA-05 SS-15 EB-08 TRSE-00
 INR-07 /052 W -----117450 061916Z /46

R 061450Z SEP 77
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2088
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: GDS
 TAGS: OTRA, SHUM, PINT, PGOV (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), AR, PDIP,
 SUBJECT: AMB. TODMAN'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6127

1. AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CAPTAIN GULATER OSCAR ALLARA AND MINISTER JUAN CARLOS ARLIA FOR 45 MINUTES AT ALLARA'S OFFICE AT 0830 ON MONDAY, AUGUST 15. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A "WORKING SESSION," ALSO FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LONG, IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF MR. TODMAN'S PARTY PARTICIPATED ALONG WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AMOTT, HALLMAN AND FREEMAN. THE DEPUTY MINISTER MET AGAIN WITH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT LUNCH AND DINNER, WHERE DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUED.

2. PRIVATE MEETING - THIS SECTION OF THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO AN EXPOSITION BY THE ARGENTINE OFFICIALS OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DECLINE OF THE COUNTRY WHICH LEFT THE ARMED FORCES WITH NO ALTERNATIVE

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BUT TO ASSUME POWER. MFA OFFICIALS EXPRESSED RESENTMENT AND LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AT THE FOREIGN CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO RESTORE ORDER AND ASSURED AMB. TODMAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS OPERATING ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTIONAL AND STRICTLY LEGAL NORMS.

MR. TODMAN REVIEWED US POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AFFIRMED THAT RESTORATION OF ORDER SHOULD NOT INVOLVE VIOLATION OF THOSE RIGHTS, AND RAISED SPECIFICALLY THE CASE OF DR. MAURICIO LOPEZ, WHICH HAS RAISED BROAD CONCERN IN BOTH ARGENTINA AND THE US (SEE B.A. 6111).

3. WORKING SESSION: GENERAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS -

AFTER THE MEETING WAS EXPANDED INTO A "WORKING SESSION," TODMAN DESCRIBED PROBLEMS OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND OTHER PRESSING MATTERS WHICH LED TO OUR CURRENT INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A LIAISON OFFICE IN CUBA AND THE CUBANS A SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENT IN WASHINGTON. TODMAN STRESSED THAT US HUMAN RIGHT INTENTIONS WOULD BE AS ACTIVELY SOUGHT IN CUBA AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE US HAS FULL RELATIONS.

TODMAN THEN SPOKE OF A NEED TO REGULARIZE THE ANOMALOUS SITUATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, AND DESCRIBED

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OUR HOPE THAT THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE MADE WITH PANAMA CAN QUICKLY BE RATIFIED BY THE US. (AT A LUNCHEON WHICH TOOK PLACE LATER DURING DAY CHARGE PRESENTED TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON PANAMA CANAL TREATY, WHICH REACHED US MORNING 8/15.)

AT BOTH MORNING WORKING SESSION AND THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S LUNCHEON WE FOUND ARGENTINES MOST ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS, WHICH THEY PROFESSED TO SEE AS WEAKENING BECAUSE OF ARGENTINA'S GROWING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT VIS-A-VIS THE US. A SPECIFIC SUGGESTION THAT EMERGED WAS THAT THE INACTIVE ARGENTINE-US ECONOMIC COMMISSION (FOUNDED SOME 10 YEARS AGO BUT NOW MOSTLY FORGOTTEN) ACQUIRE NEW LIFE. THE ARGENTINES BELIEVE THIS WILL HELP TO IMPROVE ARGENTINA'S TRADE SITUATION WITH THE US, WHICH IS IN CHRONIC IMBALANCE. DEPUTY ECONOMY ADVISOR VIGNAUD ASSERTED THAT CONGRESS HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, DESPITE PROMISES AND GENUINE GOOD WILL ON THE PART OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, WHICH HAVE HAD DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON TRADE. HE CLAIMED THAT ARGENTINA HAD GENERALLY IMPROVED ITS OVERALL EXPORT SALES BY SOME 15 PCT RECENTLY, WHILE ITS EXPORTS TO THE US HAD FALLEN FROM 8 PCT TO 6 PCT. VIGNAUD CITED PARTICULARLY ARGENTINA'S DISPLEASURE OVER US SPECIAL STEEL QUOTAS AND SANITARY IMPORT REGULATIONS FOR MEAT. PARTICULAR SOURCES OF COMPLAINT WERE THAT THE US ALLOWED STEEL QUOTAS TO IMPORTANT PRODUCERS WHILE PUTTING ARGENTINA INTO A "BASKET" OF SMALLER PRODUCERS AND THAT US SANITATION REGULATIONS REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE CAN BE AFTOSA-FREE AREAS OF ARGENTINA FROM WHICH UNPROCESSED MEAT OUGHT TO BE PERMITTED ACCESS INTO THE US.

WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS MFA ECONOMIC ADVISOR PAULINO MASSACHIO STATED THAT A PARTICULAR INTEREST OF HIS MINISTRY WAS TO CONSULT REGARDING FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCES IN ORDER TO RECONCILE ARGENTINE-US POSITIONS.

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4. WORKING SESSION: HUMAN RIGHTS - ALSO TOUCHED UPON AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WORKING SESSION WAS OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN

RIGHTS CAN SERVE A USEFUL FUNCTION IN ITS FIELD AND DESERVES TO BE STRENGTHENED. ARGENTINE RESPONSE WAS AVOWEDLY A RESTATEMENT OF POSITION TAKEN AT GRANADA OAS MEETING: THE COMMISSION MUST EXPAND ITS DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST A GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE, AND THE COMMISSION MUST ALSO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE "RIGHTS" OF PEOPLE TO ECONOMIC WELLBEING.

ARGENTINES SHOWED PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY REGARDING INTERNATIONAL VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HERE WHEN THE SUBJECT CAME TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISCRIMINATION AND RIGHTS OF MINORITIES MEETING NOW IN GENEVA. JUAN CARLOS ARLIA, WHO HEADS MINISTRY'S WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ASSERTED THAT ARGENTINE HAD BEEN "SAVED" BY THE SOVIET UNION, WHEN THE U.S.R. CASE ITS VOTE IN A 3 TO 2 (INCLUDING US) BREAK ON WHETHER ARGENTINA SHOULD BE CITED FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. DEPUTY MINISTER ALLARA CITED AT ONE POINT A US SOURCE ZREPORT

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OF THE TASK FORCE ON DISORDER AND TERRORISM" OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND STANDARDS, OF DECEMBER 1976). TO EFFECT HIS POINT THAT IN SITUATIONS OF INSURRECTION CIVIL AUTHORITIES SHOULD DEFER TO THE MILITARY. DEPUTY SECRETARY ALSO CITED POLICE STATISTICS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW THAT ARGENTINA'S MISSING PERSONS RECORD IS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

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